

AFOSR

29 August 1955

Major General Dan Ogle, USAF (MC)
The Surgeon General
Headquarters USAF
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Dan,

After leaving you on Wednesday, a number of events transpired which resulted in a slight change in my plans for the special study project. A firming up of the operating organization resulted in the agreement that the chief project surgeon should be assigned under and report to the deputy project director in a similar manner as all other operating project personnel. His point of contact for aero-medical support and guidance should, in our opinion, be yourself since his primary requirements for support will be in the form of personnel. This can only be provided for at air staff level in the same manner that Material, Air Force Personnel, R&D and Operations will support the project director through the project office.

Certainly, I feel that any deviation from the pattern for coordination which is now set up should be a matter for decision between yourself, the project surgeon and the project director. It is one which I cannot and should not make for either you or the project director. I have notified both the deputy project director and his chief of the change in my plans regarding bringing [redacted] into cognizance and they have concurred. I have also arranged to brief [redacted] the Project Surgeon, prior to his departure for the training site, on all aero-medical activities to date, following which he can deal directly with the deputy project director and yourself on further medical plans and activities. We, of course, will continue to prosecute the R&D end of the problem and I will keep you completely current on all new developments. Any instructions you may wish to give me regarding a preferred method of reporting to you will be welcomed.

I will initially give [redacted] my best estimate on the medical manpower needs for the program and I would suggest that

Major Gen. Dan Ogle, 29 August 1955

they be fed into Otis' shop without too much delay. As you recall, we were initially handicapped very seriously during the first 6 weeks of the operation by losing our first scheduled flight surgeon to the Air Academy without any warning whatsoever. Only by calling on friends of mine to use up leave time were we able to cover the situation satisfactorily.

The acquisition and assignment of proper medical personnel for the project can only be accomplished between yourself, Otis and the project surgeon. Having anyone else in the chain, particularly me, is not only unnecessary, but actually constitutes a potential hazard to getting the people.

I will be in Europe from 3 to 11 September and upon my return I will attempt to arrange another meeting with you. In my absence, should there be any information you would like to have concerning the activities we have been pursuing to date, or their results, please contact [REDACTED] extension 71034 in The Pentagon.

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Sincerely,

DON FLICKINGER
Brigadier General, USAF (MC)
Commander, Air Force Office
of Scientific Research